

CLASSIFICATION **SECRET**

COUNTRY East Germany REPORT

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REFERENCES

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REMARKS

This is UNEVALUATED Information

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1. Between 24 and 26 February and on 1 March 1955, single-engine aircraft dropped bombs over Kummersdorf firing range. Dummy AAA emplacement in forest districts Nos 104, 105, 106, 112, and 113 were attacked. The rudder assemblies of all the attacking planes were marked with red horizontal stripes.

Between 2000 and 2300 on 25 February, the following observations were made: Two searchlights posted in the northern portion of forest district No 32 swept the horizon. About 100 meters west of the searchlights, devices looking like red balloons which were 10 to 15 cm in diameter rose diagonally up to an altitude of about 150 meters. About 70 such devices were seen. They exploded in a white flare without creating any noise. About 100 meters north of them, white balls about 5 cm in diameter rose successively to a height of 200 meters where they remained almost stationary for about 15 seconds, before they drifted out of sight. Two jet bombers continuously circled over these devices. The jet bombers were repeatedly illuminated by the three searchlights. ¹
2. At 2000 on 1 March, a jet bomber coming from the southeast approached the dummy AAA emplacement and tanks in forest districts Nos 104, and 105. One bomb was released at the first approach run. About five seconds after the whistle of the bomb was noticed for the first time, a bright flash was seen. Subsequently a dark gray smoke cloud about 1.5 meters in diameter was observed. About 12 seconds later, a short and loud detonation which shook the houses about 1,500 meters distant from the point of impact was heard. The attacking aircraft made three or four more attacks dropping one bomb each at each approach run. The intervals between the individual approaches were about 5 minutes. The next attacking Il-28 appeared on the scene about 15 minutes after the preceding one had departed.
3. On 19, 20, 22 and 23 April, single-engine aircraft and jet bombers were observed dropping bombs over the firing range. About 0800 on the days mentioned, an alert was sounded. About 0830, the first group of 12 Il-28s flying in formations of five planes approached at an altitude of about 400 meters from the southeast. The intervals between the individual planes was about 60 meters. The planes approached the targets set up at the

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southern edge of forest districts Nos 105, and 106 broke up formation 500 to 700 meters west of the targets, and approached them in a haphazard manner. Bombs were dropped individually from an altitude of about 250 meters. Firing from aircraft weapons was done at an altitude of about 50 meters. Over the targets, a figure 8 was flown by the attacking aircraft. Six approach runs were made by the Il-10s. Bombs were dropped twice, while firing from aircraft weapons was observed four times. After the formation had assembled again, the planes left in a westerly direction. Fifteen to 20 minutes later, the next group of Il-10s arrived. All the planes observed had red propeller hubs and had red markings on their rudder assemblies.

4. At 1100, on 19, 20, 22, and 23 April, the first MiG-15s flying in line abreast formation at an altitude of about 1,800 meters arrived from the southeast. They were seen crossing the targets in forest districts Nos 105, 106, and 112 at an altitude of about 800 meters, and subsequently each plane attacked the targets individually. Each of the planes carried two bombs under its wings. It appeared as if these bombs were suspended from the auxiliary fuel tanks. The attacks were made as follows: About 1,000 meters in front of the targets, each plane went on a course pointing directly to the targets. Then each plane deviated from the target by 45 degrees to the left, for two or three seconds, resumed its old course and dived immediately after for about 4 seconds. After about 2 seconds, the two bombs of each attacking plane were released. Thereupon the MiG-15s climbed again until they had reached the altitude of their approach flight. The individual planes dived at intervals of 6 or 7 seconds. The detonation of the exploding bombs was heard 12 to 15 seconds after the bombs had been released. These observations were made from a distance of about 1,500 meters. No smoke or flashes were noticed. The bombs used were estimated to be 60 to 70 cm in length possibly 15 cm in diameter. After the last bombs had been dropped, the four MiG-15s assembled in formation of MiG-15s was leaving the firing range, the next formation of four MiG-15s was seen approaching from the southeast and attacking the targets mentioned in the same way. After a recheck of the firing range it was noted that no radar angular target reflectors were in the area.

5. Observations made at the firing range between 25 February and 13 April included:

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25 February. Between 0800 and 1600, single engine conventional aircraft approached from the northwest at an altitude of 1,000 meters. They went into a glide of 45 degrees and attacked targets near kilometer station No 2 with their aircraft weapons. The aircraft approached and left toward Jueterbog individually. From 6 to 8 aircraft were seen aloft at all times.

26 February. Between 0800 and 1600, the firing range was approached by groups of three single-engine aircraft flying in formation. Firing from aircraft weapons was observed.

1 March. Air activity was observed from 0800 and 1600, formations of 12 aircraft were seen approaching. Over the target, the formation would bank and then go into a dive of 45 degrees simultaneously, dropping bombs between kilometer markers 2.5 and 3. Three or four bombs were dropped at each approach flight.

2 March. Between 1000 and 1700, twin-jet aircraft were observed. The firing range was approached by groups of seven aircraft flying in line abreast formation. The planes came from the southeast. The aircraft in the middle of the formation flew about 50 meters lower than the other planes. Over kilometer marker 2, the aircraft made about a 85 degree bank and then went into a dive of about 40 degrees simultaneously. Targets were only attacked with aircraft weapons. After the attack, the planes made a steep climb in a

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southeasterly direction and left toward Justerbog. When the preceding formation was out of sight, the following formation was seen approaching. Approach flights were made at heights varying from 1,000 to 3,000 meters.

4 March. Between 0930 and 1430, individual single-engine conventional aircraft were observed approaching at an altitude of 2,000 to 2,500 meters from various directions. Over the firing range, the attacking planes dived at an angle of about 45 degrees attacking targets between kilometer markers 2 and 2.5 with their aircraft weapons. After the attack, the planes left toward Justerbog.

12 March. Between 0900 and 1230, groups of four twin-jet aircraft approached from the southwest at irregular intervals. The aircraft arrived in diamond formation, flying almost wing-tip to wing-tip at an altitude of about 2,500 meters, over the range, the planes turned toward the northwest and went into a dive formation. After four bombs had been dropped near kilometer marker 3, the planes climbed steeply without changing formation and then disappeared.

14 March. Between 1300 and 1630, groups of 10 single-engine aircraft of undetermined type, which had come from the southeast, approached the firing range several times. The planes flew in single file formation at distances of 300 meters and at an altitude of 1,000 to 1,500 meters. Over the range, the aircraft dived at an angle of 45 degrees and attacked ground targets with their aircraft weapons. Subsequently the planes left toward the south.

18 and 19 March. Between 0730 and 1330, from 46 to 48 single-engine conventional aircraft were observed aloft at all times. The planes approached the range from the north in regimental formation arranged in three flights in line abreast formation. Over the target, the middle formation of four planes went into a dive of about 45 degrees, followed immediately by the formation to the left and right. Over the targets, only two or three bombs were dropped, but all planes attacked with their aircraft weapons. After the attack, the entire formation climbed again, turned toward the north and then disappeared.

23 March. Between 1300 and 1700, groups of four single-engine conventional aircraft approached in line-abreast formation at an altitude of about 1,000 meters. Targets were attacked with aircraft weapons. After the attack, the planes left in a northerly direction, while another formation of four planes was seen approaching.

26 March. Between 0800 and 1700, the same maneuvers were observed as on 18 March. Groups of four aircraft were seen approaching the range from the northeast at an altitude of about 2,000 meters. While flying over Kammersdorf Estate, the aircraft banked toward the northwest. When the first group of 12 planes had crossed forest district No 7, they went into a dive of about 45 degrees without changing formation. Formation discipline was very good. Four to six or 8 bombs respectively were dropped at each approach. No firing with aircraft weapons was observed. After the attack, the formation left toward the northeast. During the entire period of observation, 48 planes were observed aloft.

30 March. Between 0730 and 1300, groups of four single-engine conventional aircraft approached from the northeast at an altitude of about 800 meters. While flying in line-abreast formation, they went into a dive and fired at ground targets with their aircraft weapons. After pulling out of the dive again the aircraft banked to the right and assumed a single-file formation with

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distances of about 100 meters between the individual planes. When this formation had been formed, another group of four planes was ready for attack. Several approach runs were observed. It appeared that 16 aircraft were involved in the exercises. The planes left again in a northwesterly direction.

9 April. Between 0930 and 1450, 16 single-engine conventional aircraft approached from the northeast at an altitude of about 1,000 meters. The aircraft flew in line-abreast formation in groups of four the outside planes falling in little behind the inner planes. Over the firing range the planes banked to the right, went into a dive of 45 degrees, dropped individually, and fired with their aircraft weapons. This maneuver was repeated several times. After the attack, the planes left toward Justerbog. A formation of 12 single-engine conventional aircraft performed the same maneuver between 1515 and 1615.

20 April. Three single-engine conventional aircraft flying at an altitude of about 4,000 meters and arriving from the northeast twice approached the range between 1400 and 1445, the planes attacked targets at kilometer marker 4 with their aircraft weapons. They subsequently left toward the northeast. ²

1. Comment. The purpose of such devices is not known here.
2. Comment. The reports indicates that fighter, ground attack, and bomber untis practiced at Kummersdorf firing range during the period under review.

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